giving a representative picture of incidence of poverty in India. In September 1989, Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group to look into the methodology for estimation of poverty and to redefine the poverty line, if necessary. The Expert Group submitted its Report in July, 1993.

The Expert Group did not redefine the poverty line and accepted the one defined by the Task Force which was at national level. However, it recommended the disaggregation of the national poverty line into state-wise poverty lines in order to reflect the State-wise price differential. The important points of departure between the Expert Group methodology and the Task Force methodology are :

(a) In the new method, the NSS consumption expenditure data are not adjusted in any way and it is used as it is.

(b) The new method uses State-wise poverty lines as against national level poverty line used in the old method.

(c) The new method uses State-specific cost of living indices for updating the poverty line separately in rural and urban areas. The old method used only one all-India Index which is also same for rural and urban areas.

The full Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister accepted its recommendations with minor modifications in March, 1997.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Programmes for Employment Generation

1651. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has launched district special employment programme and block development programme in backward districts of Andhra Pradesh for employment generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far these programmes have succeeded in generating employment in backward districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir. District Special Employment Programme and Block Development Programme were launched in 1994-95 in various States, including Andhra Pradesh, which were subsequently merged with normal programmes of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The success was only partial in most cases. As per these special programmes, 10,000 employment per district under District Special Programme and 1000 employment per block under Block Development Programme were expected to be achieved over a period of 5 years. While launching the programme, it was decided to tie up the same with the assistance of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). But in view of a decision taken by the Ministry of Rural Development, to delink DRDA's Association with this programme, the target envisaged under these programmes could not be achieved and subsequently KVIC took a decision to merge them with the normal Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) programme. However, as on 31.3.2002, a total of 9955 projects were financed resulting in the generation of 105293 employment opportunities in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Cluster development programme in Andhra Pradesh

1652. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what initiatives Government have taken to provide more employment opportunities in rural areas and to promote rural industries in the country;

(b) the steps taken to improve village industries in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) what is the cluster development programme; and

(d) what assistance has been extended under the cluster development programme to the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The Government through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh to promote Khadi and village Industries including rural industries. Under this scheme 25% of project cost is provided as margin money for projects costing upto Rs. 10 lakhs. For project cost above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs.10 Lakh plus